# Yoda's species

# CANON

"They have Master Yoda's species listed as Lannik, and his midi-chlorian count at 4 million. That's just ridiculous!"

-Coleman Trebor

The Jedi Master Yoda was the best-known member of a species whose true name is not recorded. Known in some sources simply as Yoda's species, this species of small carnivorous humanoids produced several well-known members of the Jedi Order during the time of the Galactic Republic.

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## Biology and appearance



Members of the species worshiping an idol

The name and homeworld of this species are unknown.

Members of the species were much shorter than an average Human, most standing below 70 centimeters, with lifespans of many hundreds of years (though their average lifespan is unknown because all known members of the species were Jedi, who generally lived longer than ordinary members of a species). Adults of the species were characterized by sharp, elfin ears, ridges on their foreheads, tridactyl hands and (most commonly) anisodactyl feet. Their leathery skin and blood were both light green. Their sharp teeth suggested a carnivorous diet. The diet of the most famous member of the species, Jedi Master Yoda, consisted of nutriment most other beings considered disgusting.

This species resembled the Lannik species, both having a short stature, large pointed ears, and, in some cases, a topknot of hair. Whether this species was related to the Lannik is uncertain, though Yoda was at least once mistaken for a Lannik. A genetic connection between the two species was unlikely, though, because Lannik were much more humanoid and appeared to have evolved from simians, while the unknown tridactyl species had features that suggested an amphibian or reptilian ancestry.

All known members were very wise and had extraordinary Force potential. Most of them, though not all, spoke an idiosyncratic dialect of Galactic Basic Standard, utilizing nonstandard grammar and formalized sentence construction. Members of this elusive species were rarely seen in the known galaxy.[1]

### Notable members

Yoda, the most famous member of this species, was the Jedi Grand Master during the time of the Galactic Republic for over two centuries and one of the most powerful Jedi in the history of the Order. Master Yoda died from natural causes at the age of 900 standard years.

Two other Jedi, Yaddle and Vandar Tokare, were also powerful Masters who both sat on the Jedi Councils on Coruscant and on Dantooine respectively. A fourth Jedi Master of said species, Oteg, served during the Cold War. A fifth, lesser-known Jedi of this species, Jedi Knight Minch, served the Jedi Order around 700 BBY. Although little is known about him, he proved himself quite able in the ways of the Force when he single-handedly defeated a Dark Jedi Master in combat. In contrast to the other four masters, who had all shown exceptional calmness and self-control at all times, Minch had a slightly more fiery temperament and was known to have once lost his cool when

A statue of an unknown Jedi of this species was inside the Valley of the Jedi on Ruusan.

## Behind the scenes

For reasons unknown, George Lucas maintained a strict policy of keeping the history, name, origin, and whereabouts of this species unknown. When asked what species Yoda is, Lucas has only joked, "He's a frog." In the documentary "From Puppets to Pixels," he joked that Yoda is "the illegitimate child of Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy."

Prior to the creation of Yaddle for The Phantom Menace, Lucasfilm actively discouraged licensees from exploring Yoda's species, wishing to avoid confirming that an entire species of Yoda-like individuals even necessarily existed. Lines cut from Revenge of the Sith simply refer to the species as "Yoda's species."

Lucas's policy has resulted in certain Star Wars publications being canceled. A significant example was when Lucasfilm (likely at the direction of George Lucas) ordered the pulping of the entire print run of a yet-to-be-released Star Wars trading card depicting a group of the unknown tridactyl species worshiping a larger-than-life statue of one of their number, led in prayer by an individual who may have been intended to be Yoda.

The Essential Guide to Characters listed Yoda's homeworld as Dagobah. However, newer material states that Yoda was not born there.

Santa Claus appears to be a member of Yoda's species (as shown in Star Wars Adventure Journal 8), though this is an Easter egg and therefore is non-canon in Legends. In Star Wars: X-Wing, which also includes a cameo of Santa Claus, what appears to be a member of this species can be seen on the floor of a hanger of the starship Independence.



"Yoda's species'

# Physical characteristics

Average height

Skin color

Long, pointed ears

 Tridactyl hands Anisodactyl feet

Unknown (up to 900

Average lifespan

## Sociocultural characteristics

- Minch
- Oteq
- Vandar Tokare Yaddle
- Unidentified Jed



Jedi Master Yoda

Because of their three fingers on each hand and three toes on each foot, some have called Yoda's species a "tridactyl."

Many fans have speculated that this unknown species is the Whills (as in the *Journal of the Whills*), but, in an interview, George Lucas has denied this. A misconception that Yoda is a Whill from the planet "Grentarik" originated on the fan-fiction site run by "SuperShadow."

#### Number of toes



Yoda, showing his clawed hand

The number of toes that members of this species possess has been inconsistently portrayed over the course of the *Star Wars* franchise, including in the films. A tridactyl foot would only have three toes, but this version has only appeared once, in *The Phantom Menace*, whereas the puppet used in *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, as well as the digital model from *Revenge of the Sith*, all have four toes.

In the *Empire Strikes Back* shot of Yoda rummaging through Luke's supplies, Yoda's soles are visible. Although there are definitely three forward-facing toes, an additional digit protruding in the opposite direction is ambiguously either a fourth toe or a prehensile heel of some kind (if such a thing is anatomically possible). The clear presence or absence of a fourth toenail would settle the matter, but the angle of the shot makes it impossible to see whether one is there. If the fourth, rear-facing digit is a toe, then Yoda's species have anisodactyl feet.

In The Phantom Menace, the puppets of both Yoda and Yaddle feature three forward-facing toes and a blunted Human-like heel instead of the original puppet's anisodactyl arrangement, thus having truly tridactyl feet. Attack of the Clones has a fully digital Yoda but contains no close-ups adequate to discern the toe arrangement.

The digital Yoda in Revenge of the Sith returns to the original trilogy puppet's anisodactyl design, as seen in shots of Yoda plummeting to the Senate Rotunda floor at the conclusion of his battle with Darth Sidious, and when jumping down into Bail Organa's speeder shortly afterwards. One earlier shot of Yoda lying momentarily stunned on a senate pod during the battle also seems to display a rearward fourth toenail. indicating that the fourth digit is indeed a toe, but the shot is not adequately clear at DVD resolution.

Likely as a result of the above inconsistency, various Hasbro action figures of Yoda produced since Return of the Jedi have featured three, four or five toes in a variety of arrangements. None of these precisely matched his anisodactyl feet in The Empire Strikes Back until Revenge of the Sith figures molded a toenail onto the ambiguous rear-facing fourth digit of the Empire Strikes Back design, definitively making the digit a toe. Whether Hasbro based this on a Revenge of the Sith digital model or access to the original trilogy's puppet, or if this was speculation on their part, is unknown.

The 2006 reference book *The New Essential Guide to Alien Species*, on page 216, states that Yoda's species had "five-toed feet, with three toes in front and two toes in back." However, the five-toed arrangement is not visible in any film, so this statement contradicts the more common anisodactyl version featured in the majority of the films (which naturally possess a higher level of canon). This five-toed version remains the least used in any incarnation of *Star Wars* media.

The 2008 animated film and television series *The Clone Wars* uses a CGI model of Yoda that matches the one-off tridactyl arrangement from *The Phantom Menace*, with three forward facing toes and a blunted heel. The episode "Ambush" has shots of Yoda's feet showing three forward toes and a pointed heel in back.

In the "Ask Lobot" feature of Star Wars Insider 122, released in December 2010, Holocron continuity database keeper Leland Chee stated that Yoda has four toes: three in the front and one in the back.

# Appearances

- Knights of the Old Republic 2: Commencement, Part 2
- Knights of the Old Republic 4: Commencement, Part 4
- Knights of the Old Republic 6: Commencement, Part 6
- Knights of the Old Republic 9: Flashpoint Interlude: Homecoming (Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic: Reunion
- Knights of the Old Republic 29: Exalted, Part 1
- Knights of the Old Republic 31: Turnabout
- Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic
- Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic II: The Sith Lords (Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: The Old Republic
- "Heart of Darkness"—Star Wars Tales 16
- Darth Plagueis
- Star Wars: Republic: Vow of Justice (Appears in flashback(s))
- "Yaddle's Tale: The One Below"—Star Wars Tales 5
- "The Secret of Tet-Ami"—Star Wars Tales 13
- "Puzzle Peace"—Star Wars Tales 13
- "The Sith in the Shadow"—Star Wars Tales 13
- Star Wars: Obi-Wan

# Non-ganon appearances Force

- Stati MarkerRicantasenBacki Rival
- Séalt Alarse Ministration (Picture only)
- Jedi Apademtige: The Uncertain Path
- Jedi ApademtigeRētuerCafithæ Fadaylen
- Jagi & BinknRev.eTige DéthayOllonæeMenace
- **Jadi Repurentic Far Intermit.** Expecial Endition (Appears as a ghost or a spirit)
- "Jeakotpipindintic"e: Shar West ThateBind
- Peth Apphentice: The Only Witness
- Stati MagreenRiceuSpie Garr Entition do Decembri 66s
- "Jeloke Apoppentice Special Edition/aThe aleko/wers
- Stair & Vara Indivities Van News Horand on Ord Mantell 1
- Séalt OlaunditfiAidissofTWalEmpire Strikes Back
- Star Wars Infinition Return to Italian Jedit 2 (Appears in flashback(s))
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  Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back (Pack: Yoda)
     "It is Dark"—Galaxy Guide 5: Return of the Jedi (Indirect mention only)
     Star Wars: The Power of the Force (1995)
  Star Wars: Episode / tox line Ebisode tar West and the mace West are in flashback(s))
     Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace (reference book)

    Star Wars: Power of the Jedi
    Star Wars 7: Outlander, Part 1

  "Star Wars Kids Answer Quest"—Star Wars Kids 3
Star Wars 13: Emissaries to Malastare, Part 1
  Star Wars: Episode I The Visual Dictionary
Star Wars 14: Emissaries to Malastare, Part 2

    Star Wars: Attack of the Clones: The Ultimate Illustrated Guide
    Star Wars 15: Emissaries to Malastare. Part 3

    Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith The Visual Dictionary
    Star Wars 16: Emissaries to Malastare Part 4

    Star Wars: The Visual Dictionary
    Star Wars 28: The Hunt for Aurra Sing, Part 1

     The Essential Guide to Characters
Star Wars 36: The Stark Hyperspace War, Part 1 (Appears in flashback(s))

    Star Wars: The Action Figure Archive
    Star Wars 39: The Stark Hyperspace War, Part 4 (Appears in flashback(s))

     "In the Star Wars Universe"—Star Wars Insider 47
Star Wars 41: The Devaronian Version, Part 2 (Appears in flashback(s))
      The New Essential Guide to Characters
Star Wars 45: Rife of Passage, Part 4
     The New Essential Chronology
Jedi Quest 1
  Star Wars Insider 79 Jedi Quest 3
     Star Wars Roleplaying Game
Star Wars: Zam Wesell
Notes and references
  1. The New Essential Guide to Alien Species ustrated Guide
     Star Wars Galaxy Series 4 (Card: Amy Pronovost sketch card)
  In other languages Storm
  Star Wars Galaxy Series 6 (Card: Amy Propoyost sketch card)
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Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones 7 comic / novel / junior novel
      "Ask Lobot"—Star Wars Insider 122
      The Phantom Menace: The Expanded Visual Dictionary Most Precious Weapon (Appears in flashback(s))

    Star Wars: Darth Maul, Sith Apprentice
    Star Wars: The Clone Wars game

     Book of Sith: Secrets from the Dark Side Star Wars: Battlefront II
  Star Wars: Beware the Sith (Picture only)
Republic 49: Sacrifice

    Star Wars: The Ultimate Visual Guide: Updated and Expanded
Republic 50: The Defense of Kamino

     Jedi: Mace Windu
     The Essential Reader's Companion
     Star Wars: Obi-Wan Kenobi, Jedi Knight
Star Wars: Clone Wars – "Chapter 1"
     Star Wars: The Clone Wars: Masters of the Force (Picture only)
Star Wars: Clone Wars – "Chapter 5" (Appears in hologram)
     Star Wars: The Legendary Yolda Flerce Currents—Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume 1 (Appears in hologram)
     Star Wars: Edge of the Empire Core Rulebook.
Star Wars: Clone Wars - "Chapter 15"
                  Jedi Order in the Encyclopedia (link now obsolete; backup link) (Picture only)
                  Star Wars: Clone Wars - "Chapter 19" (Vision to Anakin Skywalker)
  Star Wars: Clone Wars PhotoComic
                 Star Wars: Clone Wars - "Chapter 20"
                 Star Wars: Clone Wars - "Chapter 21"
     Star Wars: Battle for the Republic
                      "Run Mace Run"—Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume 2 (Vision to Mace Windu)
                      "A Stranger in Town"—Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume 3
      The Clone Wars: Shadowed
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "The Hidden Enemy" (Appears in flashback(s))
     Star Wars: The Clone Wars film / novel
    The Clone Wars 6
  ■ The Clone Wars: Prelude
     The Clone Wars: Shipvards of Doom
   The Clone Wars: Crash Course
  ■ The Clone Wars: The Wind Raiders of Taloraan
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "Supply Lines"
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "Ambush"
      The Clone Wars: Shakedown
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "Rising Malevolence" (Appears in hologram)
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "Bombad Jedi" (Appears in flashback(s))
      The Clone Wars: Transfer (Appears in hologram)
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "Lair of Grievous"
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "Dooku Captured"
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "The Gungan General"
            Star Wars: The Clone Wars - "Blue Shadow Virus" (Appears in hologram)
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- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Liberty on Ryloth" (Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars: Republic Heroes
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Holocron Heist"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Children of the Force"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Senate Spy"
- The Clone Wars 10: Hero of the Confederacy, Part 1
- The Clone Wars 11: Hero of the Confederacy, Part 2 (Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Landing at Point Rain" (Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Grievous Intrigue"
- "In Triplicate"—Star Wars: The Clone Wars Comic UK 6.3 (Appears in flashback(s))
- The Clone Wars: The Colossus of Destiny (Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Lightsaber Lost"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Senate Murders"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "The Zillo Beast Strikes Back"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Supply Lines"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Corruption" (Mentioned only)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "The Academy" (Mentioned only)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Assassin"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Evil Plans" (Appears in flashback(s))
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Hunt for Ziro" (Appears in flashback(s))
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Witches of the Mist
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Overlords" (Appears in flashback(s))
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Counterattack"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Citadel Rescue"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Wookiee Hunt"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Water War"(Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Gungan Attack"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Mercy Mission"(Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Kidnapped"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Deception"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Friends and Enemies"
- Star Wars: The Clone Wars "Brothers"
- The Clone Wars: The Sith Hunters
- Darth Maul—Death Sentence 1
   Darth Maul—Death Sentence 3
- The Clone Wars: Season Five
- Clone Wars Gambit: Stealth (Appears in hologram)
- Republic 54: Double Blind
- Legacy of the Jedi
- Shatterpoint
- Deep Forest (Appears in hologram)
- Republic 61: Dead Ends
- Republic 63: Striking from the Shadows
- Jedi: Yoda
- "Honor Bound"—Star Wars Tales 22
- Republic 68: Armor (Appears in hologram)
- General Grievous 1
- General Grievous 4
- Secrets of the Jedi
- Jedi Tria
- Yoda: Dark Rendezvous
- Obsession 1
- Obsession 2
- Sithisis
- "Life Below"—Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume 9
- "Thunder Road"—Star Wars: Clone Wars Adventures Volume 10
- Reversal of Fortune
- Labyrinth of Evil
- Star Wars: Clone Wars "Chapter 23"
- Star Wars: Clone Wars "Chapter 25"
- Star Wars: Republic: Siege of Saleucami (Vision to Tholme)
- Star Wars: Republic Commando (Appears in hologram)
- Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith / comic / novel / junior novel
- Evil Eyes
- Star Wars: Republic: Hidden Enemy
- Coruscant Nights I: Jedi Twilight (Mentioned only)
- Star Wars: The Force Unleashed II
- Star Wars Droids

- Perfect Evil
- Star Wars Battlefront: Renegade Squadron
- Empire 27: "General" Skywalker, Part 2 (Appears in flashback(s))
- Galaxy of Fear: The Hunger
- "The Hidden"—Star Wars Tales 6
- Star Wars: Episode V The Empire Strikes Back
- Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back junior novel
- Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back novel (First appearance)
- Star Wars 41: The Empire Strikes Back: Imperial Pursuit
- Star Wars 42: The Empire Strikes Back: To Be a Jedi
- Star Wars: Yoda Stories
- Star Wars Adventures: Luke Skywalker and the Treasure of the Dragonsnakes
- "Slippery Slope"—Star Wars Tales 15
- Star Wars 43: The Empire Strikes Back: Betrayal at Bespin
- Super Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back
- Star Wars 45: Death Probe (Appears in flashback(s))
- Star Wars 50: The Crimson Forever (Vision to Luke Skywalker)
- Star Wars 62: Pariah! (Appears in flashback(s))
- The Rise and Fall of Darth Vader
- Star Wars: Episode VI Return of the Jedi
- Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi novel
- Star Wars Episode VI: Return of the Jedi junior novel
- Star Wars: Return of the Jedi 2: The Emperor Commands
- Super Star Wars: Return of the Jedi (Appears as a ghost or a spirit)
- Star Wars 92: The Dream (Appears as a ghost or a spirit)
- The Courtship of Princess Leia (Appears in hologram)
- Dark Force Rising (Mentioned only)
- Dark Forces: Rebel Agent (Statue)
- Star Wars: Union (Dream)